

caused by chronic employment? Simplistic 19th century free trade solutions no longer serve our country well. Nor would a blind protectionist policy that blocks most foreign trade. It's time for a more complex balancing of economic benefits realized through foreign trade and the legitimate national interest in preserving a strong domestic economy.

Balanced international trade with reciprocal open markets is a worthy economic policy so long as our vital national interests are preserved. But that calls for a much more complex socioeconomic policy than either Democratic or Republican administrations have embraced to date.

NATIONAL PARKS CHECK-OFF ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the National Parks Check-off Act because of my concern about the condition of our national parks.

This same legislation was reported out of the Resources Committee during the 105th Congress with bipartisan support having 80 cosponsors.

The National Parks Check-off Act will amend the Internal Revenue Code and require that Federal income tax forms contain a line which will allow taxpayers to donate one or more dollars to the National Park Service. This legislation will provide more money for the care of our national parks and there will be no cost to the federal government.

A study released by the National Parks and Conservation Association found that 8 out of 10 people surveyed would be willing to increase their tax contribution by \$1 to benefit the National Park System.

During a House Resources Committee hearing during the 105th Congress Allan Howe, from the National Park Hospitality Association, testified that:

Over the last three years the Presidential Check-Off has raised over \$200 million. While there is considerable interest in presidential elections every four years, there is a continued and sustained interest in our National Parks, which should yield even more support.

I agree, and I believe if this bill is passed millions of dollars could be raised to address the \$4-\$6 billion backlog that our parks currently face.

During the 105th Congress, this legislation was supported by organizations such as the National Park and Conservation Association, America Outdoors, the American Hiking Society, the Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains, the National Tour Association and many others.

I hope my colleagues will join me by cosponsoring this most important legislation which will help preserve our national treasures for future generations.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO BEN OLSEN

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who, at the age of just 21, has begun to make a strong mark in his field of endeavor. Ben Olsen, from Middletown, PA, has, within one year of becoming a professional soccer player, accomplished things that many older players must surely envy.

On February 21, in just his second game for the United States National Team, Ben scored his first international goal against Chile in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He played the full 90 minutes as a wing midfielder, a position which requires not only great skill, but a remarkable work ethic, since he is required to play both offense and defense. This great responsibility means that at the international level, he is likely to run between 6-9 miles per game. He is a true "two-way" player who demonstrates great skill in addition to defensive tenacity. He is, at different times in a game, a quarterback, wide receiver, running back, linebacker, and defensive back.

In just a year of professional play, Ben has proven that he has the right mix of intelligence, speed, skill, and aggression that is the hallmark of an international-caliber player. Each time he takes the field in an American uniform, it is obvious when you watch him play that he truly recognizes the honor of representing his country. He exemplifies the finest American traditions of hard work, teamwork, and desire to succeed.

Indeed, he has been successful. In his first year with DC United in Major League Soccer, Ben played every game and won Rookie of the Year honors. Additionally, he was instrumental in helping his team accomplish something an American team has never done: win the CONCACAF Cup, the tournament which determines the best team in North America. This win gave United the right to challenge the winner of the Copa Libertadores, the champion of South America. In what is considered to be one of the great upsets in 1998, DC United defeated Vasco da Gama, the South American champion which hails from Brazil. That Vasco, a world-renowned club, has existed for over 100 years and United for just three made the win even more amazing. The fact that Ben Olsen, a veritable youngster in the game, played such an integral part in the victory was even more astounding.

Ben has accomplished much already, but the true mark of this young man is that he is hungry for more success, and that he understands the importance of being a professional athlete in today's society. After each game, he stands with his teammates and performs the traditional yet noble gesture of applauding the fans for their support. This simple demonstration, unique to soccer, reminds us all of the good in sports. And for fans of Ben Olsen, of Middletown, PA, it provides a reminder that here is an athlete to whom American youth can look for a role model.

March 17, 1999

SHADY LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a great day, on which I was fortunate to learn from some of our wisest teachers: kindergarten students. On March 1, 1999, I had the opportunity to read to kindergarteners at the Shady Lane Elementary School in Deptford, New Jersey.

Ms. Martha Wilson's kindergarten class is an outstanding group of young people. I was delighted to help promote reading to young children, and I greatly enjoyed the chance to meet the students in Ms. Wilson's class.

I wish the best of luck to the following kindergarteners who shared this special day with me at the Shady Lane School: Courtney Callahan, Nicholas Battee, Jaimie Beekler, Destiny Bingham, Brian Buck, John Childress, Robert Kilcourse, Kody McMichael, Marisa Peters, Matthew Raively, Deborah Robinson, Karen Sabater, Donald Smith, Richard Smith, Marcus Smith, Ayana Thomas, Jessica Welch, George Williams, and Nylan Wolcott.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRODUCE CONSUMERS' RIGHTS-TO-KNOW ACT

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Produce Consumers' Right-to-Know Act, H.R. 1145. The text of the bill is substantially similar to legislation that was introduced by my late husband, Representative Sonny Bono during the 105th Congress, H.R. 1232. When I joined Congress, I was honored to have the opportunity to work on this important bill last year with many distinguished leaders in Congress including the gentlemen from California (Mr. HUNTER and Mr. CONDIT), the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), just to name a few outstanding individuals. Now, it is appropriate to begin this work again in the hope that we in Congress can help all consumers and families across our country learn the basic information about the fruits and vegetables they bring home.

THE GLOBAL FOOD MARKETPLACE

The reality today is that food is a global product. The General Accounting Office reported last year that our country receives more than 2.5 million shipments of imported fresh fruits and vegetables annually (see GAO Report No. 98-103). I believe strongly in the global economy, because I believe that the U.S. and American consumers always win in a global marketplace.

My one qualification regarding this belief is that rules for trade are fair. Fair trade is an essential element of commerce in any millennium. A coordinate element of trade policy for